

Minutes of the  
**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
**OF NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY**  
December 4, 2008

**CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Cheryl Murer at 9:07 a.m. in the Board of Trustees Room, 315 Altgeld Hall. Recording Secretary Sharon Banks-Wilkins conducted a roll call of Trustees. Members present were Trustees Robert Boey, John Butler, Manny Sanchez, Myron Siegel, Marc Strauss, Barbara Giorgi Vella, and Chair Murer. Not present was Student Trustee DuJuan Smith. Also present were Board Parliamentarian Kenneth Davidson and President John Peters. With a quorum present, the meeting proceeded.

**VERIFICATION OF APPROPRIATE NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING**

Confirmation of Open Meetings Act public notice compliance was provided by Board Parliamentarian Ken Davidson.

**MEETING AGENDA APPROVAL**

Trustee Strauss made a motion to approve the meeting agenda as amended. Trustee Sanchez seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Chair Murer asked for a motion to close the public meeting to conduct an executive session to discuss the following subjects authorized by the Illinois Open Meetings Act: collective bargaining matters as generally described under §2(c)(2) of the Open Meetings Act, security matters as generally described under §2(c)(8) and (14) of the Open Meetings Act, and Executive Session Minutes Matters as generally described under §2(c)(21) of the Open Meetings Act. Trustee Strauss so moved, seconded by Trustee Siegel.

A roll call vote of the Trustees to recess to Executive Session was as follows:

Trustee Boey	Yes	Trustee Butler	Yes
Trustee Sanchez	Yes	Trustee Siegel	Yes
Trustee Strauss	Yes	Trustee Vella	Yes
Chair Murer	Yes		

The roll call vote of the Trustees to recess to Executive Session was unanimous.

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING RECONVENED**

Chair Murer reconvened the public meeting of the Board of Trustees at approximately 11:26 a.m.

**REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

It was moved by Trustee Strauss and seconded by Trustee Sanchez to approve the minutes of the September 19, 2008 Board Meeting. The motion was approved.

## CHAIR'S COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Good morning everyone on this first Board meeting day of winter snow and ice, Chair Murer said, and I want to compliment Dr. Peters and his staff on the lovely holiday decorations that greeted us as we came into Altgeld this morning.

Our Board of Trustees meets on a quarterly basis, and the volume of activities that transpire between our meetings is amazing to me. When we were here in September, we knew there were issues with our economy and that things were changing in the global market. So as always in September, we viewed this as a new beginning. Even going back to childhood days I always viewed September as the time of new beginnings. We know what happened after October 1 with the stock market, and now we are looking at not only our economy but the global economy. I think we need a balance, and my brief comments this morning will talk of a balance, a balance of being very pragmatic and understanding of what the situation is, but also not losing our focus on the future, and not losing, ever, our idealism. The NIU of 40 years ago looked far different than the NIU of today, and the NIU of today looks far different than the NIU of 40 years from now. Looking at our last 40 to 50 years, we have seen many changes, we have seen many ups and downs. The balance we all must maintain as individuals is to look to the seriousness of the situation, to adapt to the situation, but also plan for the future. That is why we as Trustees are always so proud of our role here because our role is that of policymakers. As policymakers, we look at governance not only to preserve the status of today, but to work together to assure our posterity.

So as we approach a new academic year, we need to be very cognizant of our outstanding strategic plan. But that is what we have right now, a plan. We are moving to the more difficult phase of that strategic plan which is implementation. We have undergone tremendous transition over these last 18 months. But my comment this morning is to remember one of the things I often say: We need bold action. Sometimes when we have such adverse conditions, we tend toward timidity. Bold actions will give us success. Bold actions will propel us to the future. We need to understand that this university has extraordinary leadership, not only from our President and the administration, but the leadership that we see everyday on campus from our faculty and our support staff who are the unsung heroes of any organization. So we thank everyone for what they are doing. We ask each of you, however, to be a little kinder, to be a little wiser, to be attentive not only to how we are going to survive the todays, but how are we going to focus ourselves in the future. There is no doubt that we will change, that we will have opportunities. Dr. Peters will speak on one of the programs in conjunction with the College of DuPage. I was very gratified to see the leadership role that this university has taken in coordinating with one of the finest community colleges in the Midwest. To extend ourselves and provide our nursing program on their campus is just another step in the implementation of an extraordinary strategic plan.

We have been privileged also to move forward with new faculty appointments. We recognize those who are new, and we commend those who have taken on a leadership role and have been the support of the university.

So, as we look to new abilities, to new opportunities, the message of this morning is to combine the enthusiasm of the future with the reasonableness and the pragmatism of the present. A phrase that I coined when I gave a commencement address many years ago is to be a "pragmatic dreamer," and those words are very important today. If we are all pragmatic dreamers, we realize we need to maintain the present. But let us not ever lose that factor of idealism, that factor of optimism, that factor of being a dreamer.

We, as a Board, wish everyone a wonderful holiday season as we reflect on the end of this calendar year and the beginning of a new year.

As always, it is a pleasure to welcome the University Advisory Committee: Dr. Stoddard, Dr. Bryan, Dr. Garcia, Dr. Stephen, Ms. Cesarek and Mr. Monteiro. I would like to welcome Dr. Garcia as a new UAC representative to the Board of Trustees.

I was happy to hear you refer to the strategic plan in your comments, Dr. Stoddard said, especially in light of the uncertain financial situation the university finds itself in along with all other universities. I know the faculty, students, and staff, as much as they are aware, are very keen on seeing this followed through.

Any efforts the Board can make to help ensure that the strategic plan is enacted would be greatly appreciated.

On behalf of the Supportive Professional Staff, Ms. Cesarek said, I want to wish you all a very happy holiday and remind you that with our 2/14 anniversary coming up. Supportive professional staff were very much a part of the recovery after that tragedy, and we will certainly be there for the anniversary as well.

I also want to wish you all a happy and safe holiday season from the operating staff, Mr. Monteiro said. As you can see, with the snowy weather outside, our staff is already out there keeping the streets and walking paths cleared.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

The Chair asked Board Parliamentarian Kenneth Davidson if any members of the public had registered a written request to address the Board in accordance with state law and Board of Trustees Bylaws. Mr. Davidson noted that he had received no timely requests to address this meeting.

## **REPORTS OF BOARD COMMITTEES AND BOARD LIAISONS**

### **Executive Committee**

The Executive Committee did not meet.

### **Legislation, Audit and External Affairs Committee**

Committee Chair Marc Strauss reported that the Legislation, Audit and External Affairs Committee met in DeKalb on November 13. We had quite a full agenda, he said, with Kathy Buettner giving a report on the current Illinois budget situation as well as the economic outlook for Fiscal Year 2009. President Peters commented briefly on the economic situation and addressed issues we could potentially face in the future due to the significant downturn in state revenues. Ms. Buettner updated the committee on legislation passed by Congress on such matters as Veteran Education Benefits, the Mental Health on Campus Improvement Act, the IRA Charitable Roll-Over Provision and the recent economic bailout legislation. In addition, she encouraged everyone present to read the ACE analysis of the Higher Education Opportunity Act (HEOA) to become familiar with the many changes and new requirements the it contains. Vice Provost Earl Seaver gave an oral report on the Textbook Cost Containment Requirement, one of the provisions contained in the HEOA, and he explained what steps NIU is taking to fulfill this new requirement. Greg Brady made a presentation to the committee on the recently amended Federal Lobbying Disclosure Act. Beginning in 2008, Federal lobbying is being more closely monitored, and a much heavier burden is being placed on the nation's universities to report any federal contacts by any university personnel on a quarterly basis. NIU faculty and staff will be receiving more information on these stricter federal reporting requirements in upcoming weeks. Brent Gage gave an update on NIU financial aid and student loan direct lending figures. Finally, Bob Albanese asked that the LAEA Committee consider and vote on a new policy for fraud detection and prevention. The policy was approved with a small wording change and it is included in today's President's Report today for Board of Trustees consideration and approval.

Though the Academic Affairs, Student Affairs and Personnel and Finance, Facilities and Operations Committees two committees did not meet, Chair Murer asked both committee chairs for any comments they might want to make.

### **Finance, Facilities and Operations Committee**

For those wondering why we did not have a meeting, Committee Chair Boey said, Dr. Williams and I prepared and reviewed the agenda items for the Finance, Facilities and Operations Committee, and then realized there were a minimal number of action items that did not require immediate approval. As a result, these items will be discussed and voted on in the President's Report today.

## **Academic Affairs, Student Affairs and Personnel Committee**

Trustee Boey's remarks are also true of the Academic Affairs, Student Affairs and Personnel Committee, Committee Chair Vella said. Provost Alden and I met via teleconference and decided that it was not necessary to have a meeting, so the next committee meeting is scheduled for March.

## **Illinois Board of Higher Education**

There was no report from the Illinois Board of Higher Education.

## **Universities Civil Service Merit Board**

Board Liaison Strauss reported that the State Universities Civil Service Merit Board met on November 12 at the system office in Urbana. As is the custom for that board, he said, remote gathering points were also established in Chicago and Macomb. The following are highlights of the business conducted: (1) Two discharge cases were heard, both from the Illinois Student Assistance Commission. (2) Rule revisions concerning Eligible Registers and Nonstatus Appointments are to be published for comment in the Illinois Register. (3) Rule revisions concerning Probationary Period and Seniority were adopted by JCAR and became effective October 16, 2008. (4) There was continued discussion of the Merit Board's ability to improve alternative disciplinary actions in discharge cases where reinstatement has been decided. At the last Merit Board meeting, a draft rule for such situations was requested and such a draft was presented at this meeting. The Merit Board voted to forward this proposed rule for publication in the Illinois Register. We should have a report on the dates for publication and public comment at the next meeting. (5) Additional discussion was held concerning the Exemption Procedure Manual. The topic of which jobs are exempt from Civil Service has been the subject of much discussion. This was the first time a full version of the proposed manual was presented for Merit Board review. Final comments are being solicited from all constituent groups before the Merit Board is anticipated to be asked for approval at the next meeting. (6) The calendar was approved for meetings to be held on the following Wednesdays during Calendar Year 2009: February 18, May 20, August 19 and November 18.

## **NIU Foundation**

Board Liaisons Murer and Boey deferred to Mallory Simpson, NIU Foundation President, for the Foundation report. As Chair Murer said, a lot has changed since I last reported to you in September, Ms. Simpson said. We have all been reeling from the deteriorating financial situation, and the Foundation is no exception. We have been impacted significantly on a couple of fronts, and we are doing everything we can to keep our focus. We are more intent than ever on staying true to our mission on serving our institution, serving our faculty and students. We are doing everything we can and doing as much as we can to keep moving forward. We are seeing some signs of a decrease in giving, as you might expect. People do not stop giving during economic hard times. They have a sense that people need help more than ever, and so we are seeing a slight dip, especially in those people who have major gift capacity choosing to make large major gift commitments for the campaign, for example. But, we are still moving toward our campaign goal with \$137 million toward our goal of \$150 million. We are focusing on those who still have the ability to make major gifts and still have the desire to give. We have serious budget constraints because the Foundation budget is largely funded on investment income. We are doing everything we can to conserve our resources and find new, creative ways, of keeping our donors and prospective donors close to the university, focused on our students and faculty, and keeping their dreams for doing big things for the university alive while they have to wait for the financial circumstances to allow them to act on those dreams. Out of this challenge we hope to find some new ways of doing our business, and it is forcing us to look at ways of using digital media, for example, for staying close to our donor constituency. As you can imagine, like the market, we have had a significant downturn in our endowment portfolio. Our endowment is well diversified, is well structured, has downside protection and is designed for recovery. The Foundation Board committees have been working overtime this fall as you can imagine. The finance committee and our executive committee have had many special meetings well. Everyone is focused on continuing to preserve the momentum we have established and look forward to the future to do everything we can to be smart about our resources and find ways to help our students and faculty.

One of the things that is a real opportunity for us in this environment is our planned giving program. In conversations with some of our donors, they say "That \$100,000 pledge I was planning on making, I can't

do right now, but I would be interested in talking with you about a bequest commitment.” So we are seeing an upswing in deferred gifts, which is very good news. Since the public launch of True North on May 5, 2007, we have had \$8 million in new bequest commitments through our new program efforts. We need to not be too frustrated nor too impatient. The campaign has gone extraordinarily well, and we have had 17 new professorships and chairs established around the campus, which is something to feel really great about. Scholarship spending from the endowment up to this point has quadrupled during the term of the campaign. So, we have made lots of progress and have a lot to be proud about. We are very optimistic that there will be recovery and we will make or possibly exceed our campaign goal.

We have some great donor stories that I will not share with you right now in the interest of time, but we continue to have people doing phenomenal things to support their university, people who have such heart and such commitment for the work that our faculty and students are accomplishing.

I would like to publicly thank Mallory Simpson and her staff, Chair Murer said. What comes to mind when I think of Mallory is that she provides calm leadership, and that is very important right now. We need to earn philanthropy at this moment. To earn philanthropy will give us an opportunity to focus on our academic excellence, because that is what we do for a living – we are academicians and we are teachers. So, it goes hand in hand with the university in what we accomplish in terms of academic excellence in these difficult times, and then the earned philanthropy. So thank you very much, Mallory.

#### **CONSENT AGENDA APPROVAL**

Vice Chair Murer asked for a motion to approve the items placed on the consent agenda earlier in the meeting. They include President's Report Number 62, Action Items 62, Information Items 9.b.(1), (4), (5), (6) and 9.c.(6), (7), (8), (9), (10) to that consent agenda.. Trustee Strauss so moved, seconded by Trustee Sanchez. The motion was approved.

#### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT NO. 62**

Thank you, Madam Chair and welcome to the final Board meeting of 2008, President Peters said. This is always a special meeting for us as we prepare to end yet another calendar year and to send yet another class of graduates out into the world. This December, we are dividing our graduations between graduate and undergraduate because of the popularity, the attendance and the length of the program. Also, this is the time we prepare for the spring semester. Without a doubt, the fall term has been a very important academic term in the life of our university because it has for many of us represented the ultimate test of our strength as a campus community. No one knew exactly what to expect this fall coming back for the first full academic term since our tragedy in February. But all you have to do is look around our campus and talk to our students, our staff and faculty and realize that we are healing and moving forward, always together. I am enormously proud of our students, I am enormously proud of our faculty, staff and our alumni and, of course, our governing board, the Board of Trustees, who are so supportive of every endeavor at this university and all those who come together to form the NIU family, which we now realize is worldwide and extensive. We have learned to lean on each other and to reach out to each other. Because we have reached this new plateau of understanding, we are in a better place to weather whatever comes our way.

Now all of us as individuals, as citizens of this state and this nation, and as employees of a public university are facing, perhaps, the worst economic crisis in our lives. Yet, here at NIU we face that challenge with a rare perspective. When you have been tested by fire, you do not collapse at the sight of smoke. That said, here is where we are with respect to our budget. The State of Illinois is entering into the second half of this fiscal year with an estimated \$2 billion deficit, and it could be growing. Governor Blagojevich recently asked the state legislature for emergency authority to require reserves of up to eight percent for all appropriated funds, including higher education. While I am not certain whether he will get that authority right now, it certainly illustrates the scope of the state's budget crisis. Late last week we received a message from the Illinois Board of Higher Education saying that the Governor and the Office of Budget Management is requesting that public universities reserve 2.5 percent of our General Revenue budget for the current fiscal year. That is the budget that was established for this year in July of 2009, not 2010. So that is a pullback of funds that we have been appropriated. It is also important to say that the

State has had difficulty making its payments to vendors, medical vendors, universities, school districts. That just adds to the crisis because we have had to use our own local funds in large part to maintain our operations, like payroll. So we have really been stretched to manage well. This 2.5 percent holdback we have to identify immediately. But given the size of the Illinois budget deficit and the overall economic crisis our country and the world faces, we need to be ready for the very real possibility of further reductions both this year and into the future. A rescission is a one-time cut. But next year, as the governor puts the budget together, if there is a reduction, it will be in the base budget recurring dollars. We have been working on this for several months, and we have in place a series of financial contingency plans that hopefully protect educational quality and jobs. We are freezing all but the most critical new hires at this time. We are reducing expenditures on travel and equipment. We are scaling back operations whenever and wherever they can be. It affects everything that we do, and we have plans to weather this storm. This is going to be a much longer downturn that we have experienced in the past, and in the end it is going to be transformational for public higher education. Those institutions that accept the challenge and do things differently will emerge perhaps different, but stronger. I know NIU is going to be one of those institutions. What I mean by transformational is the kinds of things we can do. I have worried for some time, as has this Board, about the affects of rising college costs on access to students who need, want and deserve an NIU education. It is the same story across the country – demand is up, state support is down – and we have no choice but to raise the amount we charge to cover our increasing costs. It is my personal hope when our country emerges from this recession, that a significant federal stimulus package will help recommit to the idea of higher education as a right, and not a privilege, as an investment in the future.

In the meantime, the steps we take to get through the hard times will unmistakably demonstrate what we value and what we will fight to preserve, such as the elements in our wonderful academic strategic plan. Last week, we unveiled a new program called the Huskie Advantage, which is a promise to pay the difference between what we charge for tuition and what financial aid will grant each and every Pell eligible new freshman that comes through our doors. The Huskie Advantage is aimed at working class families because that is the segment of our student population that is squeezed the most by our current financial policies. It is focused on freshmen for the same reason. Freshmen qualify for the least amount of financial aid and the lowest amount of student loans. So we are doing what we can, even in the leanest of times, to make an NIU education affordable and accessible. I cannot think of a better way to demonstrate our commitment to students than that.

#### **UNIVERSITY RECOMMENDATIONS FORWARDED BY THE BOARD COMMITTEES**

##### **Agenda Item 9.a.(1) – Policy for Fraud Detection and Prevention**

Approval of a Policy for Fraud Detection and Prevention comes through the LAEA Committee with its recommendation, President Peters said. This is the follow-up and response to an external audit finding that even though we have many policies in units to detect and prevent fraud, we needed a global statement and policy and a committee to put that into affect. Chair Murer asked for a motion to approve the Policy for Fraud Detection and Prevention. Trustee Sanchez so moved, seconded by Trustee Strauss. The motion was approved.

#### **UNIVERSITY REPORTS FORWARDED FROM THE BOARD COMMITTEES**

##### **Agenda Item 9.b.(1) – 95th General Assembly Report**

Consent Agenda Item.

##### **Agenda Item 9.b.(2) – Fiscal Year 2009 Budget Update**

We have been through the Fiscal Year 2009 budget on page 22, the President said, and there are some spreadsheets that follow. Almost all universities received a pro rata increase in their base budgets of 2.7 percent, with some adjustments. We had an adjustment through a gubernatorial veto that took \$1.34 million out of our base budget on the permanent improvement line. We then came before this body to ask for a fee increase to replace that shortfall at our last Board meeting.

The capital budget saga continues and, again, there remains interest in a capital bill. The governor sent many capital projects to the federal government as part of the next round of a federal stimulus package

for infrastructure, which most economists agree is a very good idea. To the best of our knowledge, in that request from the Governor were Stevens Hall, our Computer Science Building, Cole Hall renovation money and other elements of our capital bill. Recently I sent a letter to selected members of the Illinois delegation asking for their support.

#### **Agenda Item 9.b.(3) – Congressional Report**

I want to draw your attention to the congressional report Fiscal Year 2009 appropriation update, Dr. Peters said. We have received \$8 million in Department of Defense funds to continue several projects. One is our proton treatment center and our operation at FermiLab of the neutron program and another is for the ROCK program in our College of Engineering. We thank Congressmen Foster, Manzullo and Lipinski and Senator Durbin for their steadfast support of NIU in these projects.

#### **Agenda Item 9.b.(4) – ACE Analysis of Higher Education Act Reauthorization**

#### **Agenda Item 9.b.(5) – Higher Education Opportunity Act of 2008 Textbook Cost Containment Requirements**

#### **Agenda Item 9.b.(6) – Federal Lobbying Disclosure Act**

Consent Agenda Items.

#### **ITEMS DIRECTLY FROM THE PRESIDENT**

Since we did not have Finance and Facilities or Academic Affairs Committee meetings, the President said, we have several items coming directly from me instead of through the committee structure.

#### **Agenda Item 9.c.(1) – Fiscal Year 2009 Materials Management – Central Stores Commodities Amendments**

The President requested an amendment to a Fiscal Year 2009 Materials Management contract of \$170,000 in order to switch from nonbiodegradable containers and such in our food services areas to more environmentally safe biodegradables. Chair Murer asked for a motion to approve the FY09 Materials Management Central Stores commodities Amendments. Trustee Sanchez so moved, seconded by Trustee Boey. The motion as approved.

#### **Agenda Item 9.c.(2) – College of Engineering and Engineering Technology ROCK Program – Research and Project Development**

This is a federal grant to subcontract with Quad City Manufacturing for certain tests of metals, Dr. Peters said. This is a pass-through associated with our College of Engineering ROCK Program. Chair Murer asked for a motion to approve the CEET ROCK Program-Research and Project Development. Trustee Sanchez so moved, seconded by Trustee Strauss. The motion was approved.

#### **Agenda Item 9.c.(3) – Motorcycle Safety Project – Training Motorcycles**

The Motorcycle Safety program here at the university is very popular, President Peters said. IDOT has given NIU a grant to purchase just over a hundred motorcycles and to extend our training program. This is also a pass-through expense. Chair Murer asked for a motion to approve the request for the Motorcycle Safety Project Training Motorcycles. Trustee Siegel so moved saying that he had participated in this program and found it to be excellent. He was seconded by Trustee Vella. The motion was approved.

#### **Agenda Item 9.c.(4) – Collective Bargaining Agreements**

President Peters asked Dr. Eddie Williams, Chief Operating Officer, to brief the Board on the Collective Bargaining Agreements.

I am pleased to bring before the Board for final approval today two agreements that have been tentatively approved and ratified by the bargaining units, Dr. Williams said. The first is with the International Union of Operating Engineers, Local 399, that represents approximately 36 civil service employees in our Heating Plant. This is a four-year successor agreement effective July 1, 2008 through June 2012. The second agreement is with the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, Local 963, which

represents approximately 42 civil service employees in University Health Services. This is a new five-year agreement effective July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2012. I want to acknowledge and highly commend the work of Steve Cunningham and the leadership he has provided in carrying through these negotiations as well as that of Human Resources Assistant Manager Rhonda Wybourn, who leads our team.

Chair Murer asked for a motion to approve the two collective bargaining agreements. Trustee Strauss so moved, seconded by Trustee Boey. Trustee Butler requested that the Board take separate votes on the two agreements. Trustee Strauss amended his motion to approve the Union of Operating Engineers Local 399 contract, effective July 1, 2008 to June 1, 2012. Chair Murer asked for a roll call vote, which was as follows:

Trustee Boey	Yes	Trustee Butler	Abstain
Trustee Sanchez	Yes	Trustee Siegel	Yes
Trustee Strauss	Yes	Trustee Vella	Yes
Chair Murer	Yes		

The motion was approved with six Trustees voting yes and Trustee Butler abstaining.

The Chair then asked for a motion to approve the AFSCME five-year agreement retroactive to July 1, 2007 through June 2012. Trustee Strauss so moved, seconded by Trustee Sanchez. The roll call vote was as follows:

Trustee Boey	Yes	Trustee Butler	Yes
Trustee Sanchez	Yes	Trustee Siegel	Yes
Trustee Strauss	Yes	Trustee Vella	Yes
Chair Murer	Yes		

The motion was approved unanimously.

#### **Agenda Item 9.c.(5) – Appointment with Tenure**

The last item I have on my report is action item {9.}c.(5), Appointment with Tenure.

Normally we handle all tenure matters in June, the President said, but we have an extraordinary opportunity as a result of our strategic plan and our proton therapy project. We have attracted to NIU an outstanding medical physicist, Dr. George Coutrakon, who will be the technical director of our beam operations at the Northern Illinois Proton Treatment and Research Center. He comes to us from Loma Linda School of Medicine. The Department of Physics has voted to grant Professor Coutrakon tenure and the rank of associate professor. Chair Murer asked the Board for approval of the appointment of Dr. George Coutrakon with tenure and the rank of associate professor. Trustee Siegel so moved, seconded by Trustee Strauss. The motion was approved.

Dr. Coutrakon's appointment is very much in keeping with our strategic plan, the Chair said, and with our focus on academic excellence and research. This individual certainly fills all of these aspects and others, and we are very pleased to have Dr. Coutrakon heading up the clinical dimension of the proton therapy facility.

#### **Agenda Item 9.c.(6) – Fiscal Year 2009 Increment Summary Report**

#### **Agenda Item 9.c.(7) – Semiannual Progress Report of Active Capital Projects with a Budget Over \$100,000**

#### **Agenda Item 9.c.(8) – Quarterly Summary Report of Transactions in Excess of \$100,000**

#### **Agenda Item 9.c.(9) – Periodic Report on Investments**

#### **Agenda Item 9.c.(10) – Grant and Contract Awards**

Consent Agenda Items.



## CHAIR'S REPORT NO. 43

### **Agenda Item 10.a. –Second Reading-Amended – Amendment to *Bylaws* of the Board of Trustees of Northern Illinois University**

The second reading of a Board *Bylaws* amendment will remain tabled, Chair Murer said. The Trustees have had much interest in this issue and, as a result, we have asked Mr. Davidson to conduct further research so that we can make this decision with due diligence.

### **Agenda Item 10.b. –Executive Session Minutes Release**

The Illinois Open Meetings Act requires public bodies to review the minutes of their executive sessions on a semiannual basis and determine what parts of the minutes they should make available to the public because they no longer require confidentiality, the Chair said. Accordingly, Item 10.b. is proposed for compliance with the legal requirement by taking action upon the duly approved Executive Session Minutes of January 1996 through June 2008 of either the full Board of Trustees or standing committees of the Board which have not been previously released from confidentiality. Upon review and advice of the Board's General Counsel and Parliamentarian, the following sections of executive session minutes for the relevant period are proffered for release from confidentiality: December 6, 2007 Executive Session of the NIU Board of Trustees, Personnel Matter; March 27, 2008 Executive Session, Personnel Matter, Collective Bargaining Matter; June 19, 2008 Executive Session Review and Approval of Minutes of Executive Sessions of December 6, 2007 and March 27, 2008, and Personnel Matter, June 19, 2008; and August 6, 2008 Executive Session, Personnel Matter. Those sections which are still subject to confidentiality, together with sections from subsequent meetings, will be considered again in six months. Chair Murer then asked for a motion to approve this review and determination as stated. Trustee Strauss so moved, seconded by Trustee Vella. The motion was approved.

### **Agenda Item 12.c.– Proposed Board of Trustees Meeting Dates for 2009**

The proposed Board meeting dates for 2009 are the following Thursdays: March 26, June 25, September 17 and December 3. Although approval of committee meeting dates is not required by the Board, the Chair said, those dates are attached to the action item for reference. She then asked for a motion to approve the proposed Board of Trustees meeting dates for 2009. Trustee Strauss so moved, seconded by Trustee Vella. The motion was approved.

## OTHER MATTERS

Sharon Downen, who has served with distinction as Internal Auditor for NIU for many years is retiring, Trustee Siegel said. It has been a pleasure working with her, and we want to wish her well. Chair Murer wished Ms. Downen well and thanked her for her service.

## NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting of the Board of Trustees is scheduled for Thursday, March 26, 2009 on the main campus in DeKalb.

## ADJOURNMENT

Chair Murer asked for a motion to adjourn. Trustee Strauss so moved, seconded by Trustee Vella. The motion was approved. The meeting was adjourned at 12:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon M. Banks-Wilkins  
Recording Secretary